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EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT

28 March 1975

Mr. Ambassador:

The attached is transmitted for
whatever use you may wish to make
of it.

Thomas Polgar

~~cc:~~ Mr. Carver

27 March 1975

VIETNAMESE COMMUNIST VIOLATIONS
OF THE
CEASEFIRE AGREEMENTS

In the post-mortems that will follow the current developments, the critics of administration policies in Vietnam will undoubtedly raise the claim that following the Paris Agreement the North Vietnamese have honored the Ceasefire Agreement while the GVN, with American backing, has gone on the offensive. According to these same accounts, subsequent Ceasefire violations by the North Vietnamese were in retaliation for GVN's actions. Among others, Congressman McCloskey has cited such alleged sequence of events.

The following is submitted for whatever use you may deem appropriate.

It is true that the level of combat activity after the Ceasefire had declined and was on a generally downward trend up to August 1973 after which, perhaps as a result of congressional action to restrict freedom of the executive branch in Indochina, the trend was reversed. However, even during this period of "less fire", the North Vietnamese have committed massive violations of the Ceasefire Agreement from infiltration of men and material to specific incidents cited below:

28 January 1973

Quang Tri Province MR-1

Immediately following the Ceasefire, NVA artillery and armor units attacked South Vietnamese Marine Units occupying positions surrounding the mouth of the Cua Viet River. The marines suffered heavy personnel and equipment losses and were forced out of their positions.

28 January 1973

Quang Ngai Province MR-

On 28 January the day of the Ceasefire NVA forces attacked and seized the port town of Sa Huynh and the surrounding area with its important source of salt from the salt flats. The port had been held by the Government of Vietnam (GVN) territorial and ranger forces.

Late January 1973

Quang Tri Province MR-1

Shortly after the Ceasefire, NVA forces attacked the South Vietnamese Airborne Division occupying positions across the Thach Han River. The Airborne Division resisted strongly but was unable to hold their territory. North Vietnamese secured bridgehead which they held ever since.

Late February/Early March 1973

Binh Duong Province MR-3

Elements of the 7th NVA surrounded the GVN outposts of Rach Bap area in Binh Duong Province during late February. After a series of ground probes and attacks by fire against the outposts, the NVA units withdrew in early March.

Late February 1973

Tay Ninh Province MR-3

The Communist forces began the siege of the South Vietnamese Ranger's camp at Ton Le Cham on 26 February 1973. Between 1 March and 30 April, the Rangers sustained heavy artillery, rocket and mortar attacks and repulsed eight attempted infiltrations by the attacking forces. (Attacks against Ton Le Cham continued throughout the year and the Ranger camp eventually fell to the North Vietnamese in 1974.)

Early April 1973

Quang Tri Province MR-1

North Vietnamese shot down ICCS helicopter near Lao Bao, MR-1, which effectively prevented ICCS deployment to Route 9 point of entry.

April 1973

Kien Phong Province MR-4

In early April 1973, the Communists moved in forces to occupy the east bank of the Mekong River between Hong Ngu and the Cambodian border. By the end of April ARVN, although suffering heavy casualties, was able to clear the Communists from the area and assure safe passage for Mekong convoys.

8 June 1973

Kontum Province MR-2

On 8 June 1973, Communist forces attacked Polei Krong and Trung Nghia Villages northwest of Kontum City. They succeeded in taking the villages from the GVN territorial forces defending them, and not until mid-September 1973 were ARVN units able to reoccupy the two villages.

27 August 1973

Chuong Thien Province MR-4

The VC D-1 Regiment attacked the ARVN 3/16 Infantry battalion in Long My District on 27 August 1973 and inflicted heavy casualties on the South Vietnamese units.

22 September 1973

Pleiku Province MR-2

The newly-formed 26th NVA Regiment attacked the 80th Border Ranger Battalion base camp at Le Minh on 22 September 1973 with tanks and artillery. The Communists destroyed the camp and took 124 prisoners, the only survivors of the battalion and its dependents.

12 October 1973

Thua Thien Province MR-1

On 12 October 1973, the NVA attacked an RF battalion at the isolated outpost on Bach Ma Mountain and succeeded in taking the post.

6 November 1973

Bien Hoa Province MR-3

Communist forces fired 35 122MM rockets into the Bien Hoa Air Base on 6 November 1973. Rockets destroyed the 81st Ranger Forward Command Post and three F-5 aircraft while damaging another aircraft, a runway, engine test stand, and several buildings.

Early November 1973

Quang Duc Province MR-2

Communist forces attacked and occupied ARVN camps located at Bu Prang, Bu Bong and Dak Song in early November 1973. The Communists followed this success with an attack on Kien Duc District town in early December.

2 December 1973

Gia Dinh Province MR-3

Communist sappers attacked the Shell Oil POL Storage Depot at Nha Be on the evening of 2 December 1973, destroying 35 million gallons of fuel.

15 December 1973

Long An Province MR-3

A Communist force ambushed three Joint Military Commission helicopters landing a Joint Casualty Resolution Center team at a crash site 12 miles southwest of Saigon on 15 December 1973. The Communists killed one American officer and one Vietnamese members of the team while wounding four American and three Vietnamese.

Thus it would seem to be wholly inaccurate, based on the historic record, to argue that during 1973, the North Vietnamese were suffering in silence the "aggressions" of the GVN and that the events in 1974-1975 were in "retaliation". It should also be noted that the Canadians pulled out of the ICCS because of the unwillingness of the Communist side to comply with the Paris Agreement, and Canadian Ambassador Gauvin frequently and eloquently expressed himself on that issue.